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INFO RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2532

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TAGS: PEPR, LY, IT, XF

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH QADHAFI

1. (U) SUMMARY. IN A DECEMBER 6 FRONT-PAGE INTERVIEW DATED IN TRIPOLI IN THE INFLUENTIAL CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA", LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS OF THE GULF OF SIDRA INCIDENT, DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S., LIBYAN TIES TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, MFO, ITALO-LIBYAN RELATIONS, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK CAMP DAVID AND THE FAHD PLAN. FOLLOWING ARE PRECIS OF

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QADHAFI'S VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) -- LIBYA'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM:

AMERICAN ACCUSATIONS ARE PROPAGANDISTIC AND ARE BASED ON A DESIRE TO UNDERMINE MY REGIME. THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR PLANS TO ELIMINATE ME. WE HAVE ALWAYS DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, LIKE THE PLO, AND TERRORIST MOVEMENTS, LIKE THE RED BRIGADES, AND THE GERMAN RAF. ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE PUTTING CONSTRAINTS ON OUR ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

- -- US-LIBYAN RELATIONS:

WE HAVE NO FAITH IN AMERICA AND IN THE REAGAN GOVERNMENT. THE INCIDENT IN THE SIDRA SKIES, OUR SKIES, AND THE RECENT MANOEUVRES, ARE THEIR MOST RECENT PROVOCATIONS. DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO TRIPOLI OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN PRESIDENT, HE MADE NO PROPOSAL TO MEDIATE BETWEEN US AND THE U.S.; ANYWAY WE WOULD HAVE REFUSED SUCH A PROPOSAL HAD IT BEEN MADE, SINCE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN US. I NEVER SAID THAT WE WOULD DIRECTLY ENTER THE WARSAW PACT, BUT IF NECESSARY WE WILL HAVE TO RECONSIDER OUR NON-ALIGNED POSITION.

- -- LIBYAN-ITALIAN RELATIONS: THERE IS NO DETERIORATION IN ITALIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS; IF ITALY WANTED, IT COULD BECOME THE PRIVILEGED WESTERN PARTNER OF TRIPOLI. AS REGARDS NATO'S BASES IN ITALY, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ITALIANS ARE OPPOSED, SINCE THEY CONSTITUTE A SYMBOL OF VASSALDOM. A VISIT TO ITALY ON MY PART WOULD BE USEFUL AND THE ONLY OPPOSITION TO IT COMES FROM THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES. BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, THERE ARE DELAYS IN OUR PAYMENTS TO ITALIAN FIRMS FOR COMMERCIAL PURCHASES, BUT EVERYTHING WILL BE STRAIGHTENED OUT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

- -- MFO: NOBODY UNDERSTANDS WHY MILITARY FORCES SHOULD BE SENT INTO THE SINAI. THEY COULD WIND UP BEING USED IN A BAD WAY.

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- -- EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK: AS FAR AS MUBARAK IS CONCERNED, THERE IS NOTHING NOTEWORTHY IN HIS INITIAL ACTS EXCEPT FOR A CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING OF NASSERITES AND OF INTERNAL EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION. WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE.

- -- THE FAHD PLAN: IT IS A CONTINUATION OF CAMP DAVID AND AS SUCH IS STILLBORN.

- -- CHAD: WE LEFT CHAD OF OUR OWN WILL BECAUSE WE WENT THERE NOT AS COLONIZERS, BUT AS FRIENDS. OUR ASSISTANCE TO OUR CHADIAN BROTHERS WAS UNDERSTOOD AND APPROVED BY ALL INFORMED LIBYANS, WHO KNOW WHEN FORCE HAS TO BE USED.

- -- THE INTERNAL LIBYAN SITUATION: THERE ARE GOOD AND BAD TRADITIONS THAT HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED. THE DISMANTLING OF THE TRIPOLI SOUK WAS NECESSARY, BECAUSE IT WAS A PLACE OF PASSIVITY, UNPRODUCTIVITY AND PARASITISM.

3. (LOU) COMMENT: THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY MIND VIGNOLD, WHOSE QUESTIONS WERE COINED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROVIDE AN ALMOST SYMPATHETIC PLATFORM FOR QADHAFI'S WELL-KNOWN THESES. IN A BRIEF EDITORIAL BY THE SAME JOURNALIST ATTACHED TO THE INTERVIEW, HE EXPOUNDS ON THE FASCINATION WITH WHICH THE LIBYAN STUDENTS LISTENED TO QADHAFI'S INTERVIEW (IT WAS CONDUCTED BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF STUDENTS). VIGNOLD NOTES THAT AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, QADHAFI HANDED HIM AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF HEINRICH VON KLEIST'S "PRINCE OF HOMBURG", IN WHICH WAS UNDERLINED THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "THE FREE MAN CAPABLE OF REFLECTION DOES NOT STAY WHERE FATE HAS PLACED HIM. HE KNOWS THAT HE CAN RISE ABOVE HIS OWN DESTINY AND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONTROL FATE."
RABB

END OF MESSAGE

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